

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application, and reconsideration of the Office Action of May 28, 2004. Upon entry of this Amendment, only claim 23 will remain pending in this application. The changes to claim 23 are fully supported by the specification, by the drawings (e.g. Figures 4(a)-4(e)), and by the original claims. Hence, no new matter is incorporated by this Amendment.

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Claims 1, 5, 6, and 23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as purportedly anticipated by Senda et al. (WO 9119303A1).

Claims 2, 7, 10 and 23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as purportedly obvious based on Senda et al. in view of Blumkin et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,626,816).

Both rejections are addressed together as similar issues apply to both. Moreover, Applicants respectfully traverse both rejections.

Claim 23 concerns a high-Q inductor for high frequency, which inductor includes a plurality of inductor elements respectively formed in a plurality of IC wiring layers. Each inductor element has a spiral shape, and each spiral shape is constructed from a combination of plural pairs of straight and parallel lines. Adjacent inductor elements of the plurality of inductor elements are connected with each other in such manner that the adjacent inductor elements are serially connected by connecting the spiral centers thereof with each other and outer ends thereof with each other. As the claim continues, a first area in which one spiral shape overlaps with an adjacent spiral shape is smaller than a second area in which the one spiral shape overlaps with a non-adjacent spiral.

In order to ensure full appreciation of each of the above-described features in the claims, reference will be made to Applicants' exemplary, preferred embodiment of Figures 4(a)-4(d). First, consider the recited "one spiral shape" to correspond to 44 in Fig. 4(b), and the recited "adjacent spiral shape" to correspond to 41 in Fig. 4(a) or 46 in Fig. 4(c). Next, consider the recited "non-adjacent spiral shape" to correspond to 48 in Fig. 4(d). Then, as the claim continues, the area of the recited overlap of the adjacent spiral shapes and the area of overlap between the non-adjacent spiral shapes is not the same. Specifically, the first or adjacent spiral overlap area is smaller than the second or non-adjacent spiral overlap area.

The above described structure of claim 23 reduces parasitic capacitance produced between adjacent inductor sections, for example, inductor sections 41 and 44 in the exemplary, preferred embodiment of Fig. 4. This structure also prevents the self-resonant frequency of the high-Q inductor from becoming low. Neither Senda nor Blumkin teaches or fairly suggests the above described structure. Moreover, there is nothing in the teachings of either patent which would motivate one of ordinary skill to arrive at the above described features by modifying the apparatus of either patent. Hence, in view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that both rejections are overcome. Reconsideration and withdrawal of both are thus requested.

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Applicants respectfully submit that this Amendment and the above remarks obviate all outstanding objections and rejections in this case, thereby placing the application in condition for immediate allowance. Allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

If any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 are due in connection with this filing, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 02-4300; Order No. 033216.0272.

If an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 is necessary that is not accounted for in the papers filed herewith, such an extension is requested. The extension fee should be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-4300; Order No. 033216.0272.

Respectfully submitted,
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